

From: Paul Arndt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:52pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it may concern:

This letter is in regard to the proposed Microsoft penalties in the DOJ case against Microsoft Corporation.

I feel the US Department of Justice is doing the US public a huge disservice by not requiring Microsoft to change their UNFAIR licensing practices. I work in a large Fortune 100 Corporation and first of all, trying to decipher the Microsoft licensing is almost impossible for any normal (read non-lawyer) person to figure out. I have also called Microsoft directly with licensing questions and the Microsoft person had to get more information and return my call. Thus, even the people hired by Microsoft to handle licensing cannot sometimes figure out the proper licensing requirements are.

The fact that Microsoft is the only company that licenses software per machine rather than per user is ludicrous. They want you to license a copy of Microsoft software for any machine that could possibly run the software which includes in many cases Unix (Linux, HP-UX, Sun) workstations not even running a Microsoft operating system if you are using the Microsoft Terminal Server application. Microsoft should be forced to go to a simple per user licensing model like all other software companies that I am aware of use.

This strange licensing practice costs US corporations and small businesses billions of dollars each year to enrich MS executives pockets. It also costs the US Government additional taxpayer money to license Microsoft Operating Systems and applications which I object to.

This practice is truly unfair and Microsoft should be penalized and made to change their licensing to a per user license model.

I realize that this will have no effect as the US Government does not care what US Citizens have to say in matters like this, but this is truly unamerican and robbing billions of dollars each year that could be spent on other things.

Thank you.

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